

SHARDLOW WAR MEMORIAL

Unveiled by the Rev. R. L. Farmer.

In the presence of practically the entire population of the parish Shardlow's memorial to the 15 men who lost their lives in the war was formally unveiled on Saturday afternoon. The memorial, which stands just within the entrance to the churchyard and immediately fronting the London-road, is in the form of a shrine carried on an octagonal shaft and surmounted by a figure of our Lord with hands unlifted in blessing from the Cross. On the base of the shaft is inscribed the one word "Remember" and the figures 1914-1918. Beneath the figures are the names of the fallen carved on two panels. The memorial is executed in Darley Dale stone. The masonry was built by Messrs. J. and E. Moores (Manchester) and the carved figure of Christ together with the names of the dead were the work of Mr. J. Lanefan, also of Manchester. The whole of the work was carried out from designs by and the personal supervision of Mr. H. Quentery Farmer, Lic.R.I.B.A., of Macclesfield. The cost of the memorial was £325, which sum has been raised by voluntary subscriptions. The following are the names of the fallen engraved on the front panels:—George Taylor, Charles Webster, Frances James Sanders, John William Shaw, William Mugglestone, Frederick William Wells, Joseph Moore, Albert Twells, Henry James Swain, Frank Victor Cowlshaw, John Hetshall, Reginald Harry Ford, D.C.M., M.M., John Thomas Stone, Daniel Clayton.

The ex-service men belonging to Shardlow marched from the hall, led by Captain B. O. Corbett, Captain Bailey, Captain M. Lethbridge Farmer, M.C., R.A.M.C., and Captain Gutteridge, R.A.M.C., and the band. A procession was formed at the Rectory, headed by the Shardlow Troop of Girl Guides and the following clergy:—The Ven. Archdeacon Noakes (Derby), Canon Adams (Elvaston), Rev. H. R. N. Ellison (Aston-on-Trent), Rev. R. Lethbridge Farmer (Shardlow), and the Rev. W. Webb (Alvaston). The service in the parish church was the most impressive character, and the building was crowded to the doors. The prayers were read by Canon Adams and the lessons by Rev. H. R. N. Ellison and Mr. Hallam (United Methodist lay preacher). The roll of the honoured dead was read by Mr. John Stennett (Wesleyan layman), after which the "Last Post" was given by a party of buglers (Notts. and Derby Regiment).

THE UNVEILING CEREMONY
was performed by the Rector (the Rev. R. L. Farmer), who, in the course of his address, said:—Failing the presence here to-day of Mr. Edward Sutton, whose health forbade his leaving home, the wish was kindly expressed by the committee that I, as rector, and therefore one to whom the men who went to the front were known, should unveil this stately Cross which you have caused to be erected to their abiding and glorious memory. I would like first to record the absolute unanimity which has prevailed amongst us as to the form which our memorial should take, and the choice of the design. That selection has, I think, been justified. The architect and the firm who carried out the work may be congratulated. The monument is in harmony with its setting and surroundings. The canopied figure of our Lord, robed as a King—ruling and reigning over all things—is a happy conception. We never lost heart during the darkest days of the war. Those who thought that human might and frightfulness would overcome the right left out of their calculations. Him who over-ruled the world. The hands of the King are raised in blessing, it is for us to make ourselves worthy of His benediction. In the background is the Cross, for it is through suffering that we must triumph. The inscription was left to my judgment, and long I pondered over it. At last I determined to leave it at the one word "Remember." To add to that word seemed to limit its interpretation. There is so much for us and our children to remember. It is hardly likely that you and I who knew those 15 men can cease to think of them; but we desire that those who come after us should know their names and follow their example in courage, in obedience, and in fidelity. You ex-service men here to-day deserve and have our thanks for the part you played so manfully. You will remember the wonderful spirit of comradeship amongst all those who fought against the foe. Is that to be forgotten?—how men of every rank and station were as "pals" in their determination to save the country from disaster. Bring that same spirit into the men of England in these days of reconstruction and no happier, brighter prospect lies before any nation in the whole world. Remember the maimed and the disabled, the widows, orphans, and the lonely-hearted, and our duty towards them. Remember, too, that any next war—which God forbid—must begin where the last left off, only with deadlier results, so aim for labour and pray for the peace of nations. Above all, when you pass and look up at this Cross remember that Christ who died for us lives and reigns that He may be for us the Prince of Peace.

The Ven. Archdeacon Noakes formally dedicated the memorial and delivered a very touching, impressive and inspiring address. A large number of beautiful wreaths were placed at the base of the memorial after the unveiling by the friends and relatives of the fallen. The "Last Post" was sounded by buglers of the Notts. and Derby Regiment.

Photograph appears on Our Picture Page.